



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

February 10, 2010

DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, 630 GARDEN STREET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moldaver called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Moldaver, Natasha Lohmus, Roger Schlueter, Paul Bullock, Betsy Weber

Committee members absent: Daniel Wilson

Liaison members present: None

Liaison members absent: Councilmember Michael Self, Park and Recreation Commissioner Daniel Hochman, Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Supervisor George Johnson, Creeks Program Assistant Julie Kahrnoff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schlueter noted that at the December 16, 2009 meeting the Committee's support for Mr. and Ms. Rosenfeld's public comment was not expressed in the minutes and suggested that the minutes be amended to capture the essence of the discussion.

Motion:

Committee members Bullock/Lohmus to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 16, 2009 as amended.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Benson announced two items that went to City Council on Feb 9: First, a donation from Whole Foods market for \$5,000 to the Creeks Advisory Committee. The Council accepted the donation and at a later time the Committee will discuss what the appropriate use of the funds will be. Second, a grant from the Water Environment Research Foundation for \$27,000 to the Microbial Source Tracking with UCSB and for Canine Scent Tracking. This is the first dog to ever be trained for tracking sources of human waste in storm drains. The Creeks Division will collaborate with the dog and his trainer, along with UCSB, to test canine scent tracking capabilities, corroborated with

microbial source tracking at the same sample locations. If successful, canine scent tracking could be a relatively low cost per sample, and provide real-time results.

Committee Members asked questions regarding the ownership of the dog; and, whether the Whole Foods Market donation of 5,000 will go into the FY10 operating budget.

Mr. Benson reported that the City will not own the dog; and, that the Whole Foods Market donation will go into the FY10 operating budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Moldaver suggested that Committee Members introduce themselves to new Committee Members.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Benson reported that the Budget Subcommittee met on January 29 to discuss the FY11 Creeks Division budget as well as an update on FY10 revenues. The current revenue projection is 9.5% from the previous year. The Creeks Division has already been working on cost cutting measures and has cut where possible. For the transferred FY11 budget, the Creeks Division is proposing to increase the amount that is transferred to the Capital Program and the projects that the Creeks Division is constructing around the City. The Creeks Division is tightening up operating budget expenses and focusing Measure B funds on project to improve water quality and restore creeks within the City. There will be one or two more Budget Subcommittee Meetings before the proposed budget is presented to the full Committee.

Mr. Benson asked the Committee to reschedule the April 14 Creeks Advisory Committee Meeting to April 21.

Mr. Moldaver noted that the new Council Liaison member of the Creeks Advisory Committee will be Council Member Michael Self.

ELECTOION OF CHAIR – For Action

Motion:

Committee Members Lohmus/Bullock to elect Lee Moldaver for the Chair of the Committee.

Vote:

Voice Vote 4/0; Moldaver abstained

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR – For Action

Motion:

Committee members Lohmus/Weber to elect Mr. Bullock for Vice Chair of the Committee.

Vote:

Voice Vote 4/0; Bullock abstained

CHAIR SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (Attachment 2) – For Action

Mr. Bullock, Mr. Schlueter, and Mr. Moldaver were appointed to the Budget Subcommittee.

Ms. Lohmus was appointed to the Watershed Subcommittee, and the two remaining spots were left vacant until a future meeting.

Ms. Weber, Mr. Bullock, and Mr. Moldaver were appointed to the Education and Outreach Subcommittee.

Mr. Schlueter asked why there is a subcommittee for Education and Outreach.

Mr. Benson noted that Committee voted to have the Education and Outreach Subcommittee to work on the public Education Plan update.

Mr. Moldaver suggested that the Committee fill the Watershed Subcommittee vacancies at a later meeting; and, suggested for the Committee to wait to fill the positions of liaisons to the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee and the Lower Mission Creeks Subcommittee until Mr. Wilson returns.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Mission Creek Fish passage Update

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the proposed steelhead passage projects on Mission Creek.

Documents:

Staff Report – February 2010

PowerPoint Presentation – February 2010

Speakers:

George, Johnson, Creeks Supervisor

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee Members asked questions regarding the purpose of the low flow channel weirs; whether there would be water below the weirs; and, how long the notch in the concrete apron will be under the bridge at Tallant Road.

Mr. Johnson reported that the weirs work as speed bumps that back up water during low flows in order to create sufficient depth for the fish to swim. The notch at Tallant Road will be 8 feet wide and 30-40ft long; the full length of the bridge.

Mr. Schlueter commented that the estimate of timing is very optimistic on the project.

Committee members asked questions regarding whether there are any other cities that have done a project like this before; and, whether the designs for the project will be for public view.

Mr. Johnson reported that he is not aware of any other City that has done this before, that is why the Creeks Division did the performance design model; and, the designs will be available for the public.

Mr. Benson noted that we have been working with the State and Federal agencies and with their engineers and fish biologist and we are seeing a lot of interest in the design. Other communities are looking at this design as a possible fish passage solution in their areas.

Ms. Lohmus noted that in Southern California fish passage projects are different because Southern California has inconsistent weather events and that will require different designs than some other communities may use.

Committee Members asked questions regarding wads and what they are used for; what the most interesting aspects of the design process was; and, who is the Creeks Division collaborating with on this project.

Mr. Johnson reported that the wads are to provide protection for the fish; that, the most interesting aspect of the project were that the Creeks Division developed a design that worked well in the modeling, validation from HDR stating the design was sound, and the sewer line relocation; and, that staff has been working with the permitting agencies and the design engineers at DFG and NOAA.

Mr. Schlueter noted the innovative nature of this project and asked whether the Creeks Division has written any papers on the project.

Mr. Johnson reported that staff have not written any papers.

Mr. Benson noted that Mr. Johnson has been asked by engineering partners to participate in writing a white paper, but that the Creeks Division declined.

Public Comment:

Mr. Rick Frickman of the Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council urged the Committee to move forward with this project, and noted that they would like to see the fish come back to the creeks.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Schlueter/Bullock to adjourn.

Chair Moldaver adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager